

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Aaron Chadwick Baity
Certificate 292594

**ORDER OF DENIAL OF
MOTION TO REOPEN**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 9, 2023. On April 17, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) received notice from Aaron Chadwick Baity that he wished to request a hearing for action against his South Carolina educator certification 292594. This matter was previously presented to the State Board on April 11, 2023, resulting in an order of revocation of Mr. Baity's certification. He has now made a motion to reopen the matter for reconsideration.

After considering the evidence and testimony, the State Board hereby denies Mr. Baity's Motion to Reopen. The revocation of Mr. Baity's educator certification 292594 will remain, effective April 11, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Baity holds a revoked South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over two years of educator experience. On December 1, 2022, the SCDE sent Mr. Baity a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 292594. Mr. Baity signed a postal receipt on December 8, 2022, confirming that he received the notice.

The SCDE did not receive a hearing request and the case was presented to the State Board as a default matter. Mr. Baity's educator certificate was revoked and the Order of Revocation issued, effective April 11, 2023. Following the issuance of the final order, Mr. Baity contacted the SCDE and alleged that he previously sent a hearing request to the SCDE on December 9, 2023. Mr. Baity has provided a copy of the letter that he asserts was submitted to the SCDE. The letter

was not sent certified mail and has no date stamp to show if a hearing request was sent prior to the default. There is no record of Mr. Baity attempting to contact the SCDE until after the issuance of the revocation. It was noted that the revocation of Mr. Baity's certification was related to allegations of previous dishonest conduct. Further, the copy of the letter purportedly sent to Superintendent Spearman on December 9, 2023, did "request a meeting to discuss [Mr. Baity's] actions" but did not request a hearing to dispute the alleged unprofessional conduct.

After considering the evidence and testimony presented, the State Board finds that the evidence presented does not demonstrate just cause to reopen the action against Mr. Baity's educator certificate 292594.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes, inter alia, "unprofessional conduct."

The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to reopen the matter of Mr. Baity's educator certificate 292594. Mr. Baity received constitutional due process and there is insufficient evidence in the record to support Mr. Baity's claim that a hearing request was submitted prior to the default presentation on April 11, 2023. Accordingly, Mr. Baity's Motion to Reopen is denied and the revocation of Mr. Baity's educator certification 292594 will remain, effective April 11, 2023.

As with all final orders from the State Board, Mr. Baity may appeal this decision to the South Carolina Administrative Law Court within 30 days.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton

Crystal F. Stapleton, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 9, 2023